

## VIGIL, XAVIER I.

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**From:** City of Santa Fe <noreply@santafenm-gov.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 3:10 PM  
**To:** Governing Body Public Comment  
**Subject:** New submission from your Governing Body Public Comment form

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Submitted on: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 3:10pm

- First Name: Rachel
- Last Name: Heydemann
- Your District: District 1
- Meeting Date: 01/29/2025
- Section of Agenda you would like to comment on: Public Comment
- Your Comment: Please support funding the Micro Communities initiative. The current initiative at Christ Lutheran Church demonstrates this is a highly successful intervention in supporting our homeless neighbors. I have spent the last 12 years addressing housing and homelessness issues -- from developing innovations in affordable housing finance to providing direct service to developing programs like this Micro Community model in other locations in the country, and with my years of cultivating expertise in this field I emphatically support transitional opportunities like this. We have no alternatives, we have no options, we do not have enough housing units, and rehabilitation into stabilizing in housing takes time. Micro Communities are a powerful step forward from street homelessness, especially when it becomes chronic, because it allows people to adjust, gather their bearings, heal, and bit by bit begin to return to society. These are data-proven, time-tested strategies that *\*work\**. The statistics from the pilot program prove resounding efficacy. To deny this program would mean to completely neglect that this is a viable solution to a pernicious problem plaguing our city and causing deep harm through the inhumanity that is the social problem of homelessness. To deny this program would make you complicit in this devastating status quo specifically because this *\*works\** and there are no alternatives as effective in addressing this issue within the broader continuum of care. We are looking to you, City Councilors, to uphold your duty to the public good. To deny funding this program would not only create a tremendous set-back, but would be a profound cruelty as civil servants. When we know something works, especially for a problem as harrowing and difficult to resolve as homelessness, we need to put our weight behind it. There are no alternatives. Please, do what is right. Please, support this initiative and help us support those of working tirelessly to ensure our unhoused neighbors have dignified means to recover and re-enter society, contribute to the fabric of Santa Fe, reduce costs on strained emergency services and first responders, increase safety and security as unhoused people can rehabilitate and not commit crimes of desperation and so much more. Every issue your constituents like me care about can be mitigated by leveraging ideas that *\*work\** like Micro Communities, to improve our city.